

The *Magazine for the Christian Home*
Hearthstone



- **The Meaning of Thanksgiving** — *John Edward Thomas*
- **The Christian in Art** — *Ralph Pallen Coleman*

November, 1953 — 25c

The *Magazine for the Christian Home* Hearthstone

E. LEE NEAL, *Editor*

IDA PARKER BIEBER, *Assistant Editor*

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Tomorrow's "Good Old Days"

Today's Thanksgiving feast lasts but an hour or so—perhaps less than that for the eager young man on our Cover, once he's allowed to begin. But not the fond recollections of turkey and trimmin's, "company" dishes, and happy faces. For this young man and for others of his age, today's Thanksgiving, with its food and fun, will always be a part of "the good old days."

As parents, how "good" can you make the memories your children stow away? Of course Mother can cook (for gone are the "good ol' days" of "season to taste" and "a lump of butter the size of an egg"). And of course Father can carve, thanks to audio-visual aids and knives of steel tempered to save tempers. But in your home, whatever the family fare and flare, remember it's the day-to-day atmosphere that will determine your children's feelings when, years hence, they recall childhood scenes.

Perhaps then your children will have warm feelings of thanksgiving that you had high standards of veracity, dependability and responsibility—for yourselves as well as for others. That you dared to be Christians when others apologized that it was hard to be a Christian in a non-Christian world! That you could always be counted upon to keep your word, to do right, and to consider the rights and feelings of others.

Today's days *can* be tomorrow's "good old days"!

● **This issue . . .** The theme? Thanksgiving, of course—especially in The Meaning of Thanksgiving; Growing in Gratitude; and, as a Thanksgiving treat, The Christian in Art. Then, to help make you thankful when many more Novembers have come and gone: Flying Off the Handle; Let Recreation Re-create Your Home; When the Family Reads Aloud. In fact, this issue's as stuffed as the turkey on our Cover.

● **Next month . . .** Christmas, of course. Two beautiful art masterpieces; a poem "Joseph," illustrated by the author's son . . . How to buy Christmas toys . . . How best to celebrate Christmas in the home . . . Christmas stories . . . Christmas decorations. We've started early, to package all these treats.

● And now, our Thanksgiving message to skilled men and women for the "plus" that they contribute to each month's *HEARTHSTONE* as they make photos into "cuts"; scratched-up copy, roughs and paste-ups into galleys and pages and lock them into forms; and as they print, bind, wrap and mail this work of many minds and hands, addressed to Christian homes throughout the land. *Thank you ALL!*
—I.P.B.



—R.N.S.

A Word from The Word

Among the
Redwoods

The Great Works of God

Praise the LORD.

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congrega-
tion.

Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who have pleasure in them.

Full of honor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures for ever.

He has caused his wonderful works to be remembered;
the LORD is gracious and merciful.

He provides food for those who fear him;
he is ever mindful of his covenant.

He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the heritage of the nations.

The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy,

they are established for ever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

—PSALM 111:1-8

By John Edward Thomas

*Minister of the Christian Education
Center, Hopkinton, Massachusetts*

The Meaning of Thanksgiving

or, One Gave Thanks



LONG AGO, in a certain village not far from Jerusalem, ten men were afflicted with a dreadful disease. Because of their sickness they were ostracized from society. They were even cast out by their families to live as beggars on the highways. Laws prohibited their coming too near a well person for fear of spreading the disease. There was little or no hope of their recovery. They were lepers.

Then one day these sorely afflicted men were thrilled by the news that a great healer was on his way to their village. Making their way as quickly as possible to the place where he would enter the village, they waited anxiously. Then they saw him coming! Hurrying toward him, and coming as near as they dared, they called out,

"Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" The great healer paused, and looking at them in compassion, said, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." He spoke with such kindness and yet with such authority that they started on their way at once. Suddenly, as they went, an amazing thing happened. They were healed of their leprosy! They knew not how, but they were well again!

When one of them discovered the transformation that had taken place in his broken body, he turned abruptly and, shouting praises and thanksgiving to God, ran as fast as ever he could, back to where the healer was, and falling down on his face before the great benefactor, lifted his voice in gratitude for what had come to pass.

And seeing the leper who was made whole, the healer said, "Were not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?"

Ah, yes! Where were the nine? Luke, who tells the story (chapter 17), does not say. Only the one returned to give thanks to Jesus for the great blessing which had come to him.

How do you suppose it happened that the one returned to give thanks?

The record reveals he was one who was very conscious of God and of God's love for him: "And one

of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice." This man knew God as the source of all his blessings.

It is this consciousness of a heavenly Father "from whom all blessings flow," that has always prompted the children of men to give thanks—thanks to God himself, and thanks to those around them through whom the blessings of God are so often given.

Because of his great consciousness of God's presence and love, the psalmist sang:

Thou hast turned for me my mourning
into dancing;
thou hast loosed my sackcloth
and girded me with gladness,
that my soul may praise thee and not be
silent.

O LORD my God, I will give thanks to
thee for ever.

PSALM 30:11-12

THOSE VALIANT MEN and women of the Mayflower who sought a new home in the wilderness of a strange land in order that they might be free to worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences, were conscious of him as the source of their every blessing. Their first act when they landed on these shores was to fall upon their knees and give thanks to him!

The Pilgrims were not the kind of people who thanked God simply for material blessings, or only at times of material prosperity. They thanked him regardless of their circumstances. On a monument on Cole's Hill, close by Plymouth Rock, are these significant words:

Here under cover of darkness, the first dwindling company laid their dead, leveling the earth above them lest the Indians should learn how many were the graves. Readers! history records no nobler venture for faith and freedom than that of this Pilgrim band. In weariness and painfulness, in watchings, often in hunger and cold, they laid the foundation of a state wherein every man through countless ages should have the liberty to worship God in his own way. May their example inspire thee to do thy part in perpetuating and spreading the lofty ideals of our Republic throughout the world.

It was this same consciousness of the goodness and love of God that prompted the first official Thanksgiving Proclamation. Initiated by a joint resolution in both houses of Congress on Friday, September 25, 1789, by Elias Boudinot, of New Jersey, it was signed by President Washington a few days later, on October 3. The resolution read:

Resolved, That a joint committee of both Houses be directed to wait upon the President of the United States, to request that he would recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed by acknowledging, with grateful hearts, the many signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a Constitution of government for their safety and happiness.

WILL THANKSGIVING DAY have real meaning in your life and in the life of your family this year? If on the part of yourself and your loved ones there is a real consciousness of God's love for you and the blessings you have so richly received from him, Thanksgiving Day will be much more than just another holiday in your home.

As Thanksgiving Day approaches,

Boston church school children, dressed as Pilgrims, here join in prayers of thanksgiving as the Protestant minister blesses gifts of food for the needy. Thus, as in other churches throughout our land, some of the harvest yield passes from those who have to those who have not, and all give thanks.

there are many ways in which this consciousness of God's love may be deepened in the hearts of the members of your family. You might find it possible to visit a historical spot in the area where you live. You would find it both interesting and inspiring to learn the story of events which took place there—events of significance to your community and perhaps to the whole nation—events through which God was working to make possible constant blessings in your life today. Or you might wish to read aloud with the members of your family the story of the Pilgrim Fathers and the founding of our country, or stories from the lives of men and women who have brought blessings to mankind, or pages from the history of our nation, or, perhaps best of all, selected passages from the Holy Scriptures. Before each evening meal, have the mem-

bers of your family observe a few moments of silence, to call to mind the ways in which God has blessed them throughout the day, and their consciousness of his love will be deepened. Some families have found such spiritual growth by using their own prayer or litany of thanksgiving in which they enumerated their blessings.

A consciousness of God's goodness and love may come, not only from a recognition of the gifts he has given, but also from a recognition of the evils we have been spared. A motorist observed a farmer in New England cultivating a very rocky field. "Honest, my friend," he said, "I don't see how you make a living on such a farm. Look at the rocks everywhere." To which the Yankee replied, "I ain't so poor as ya think I be. I don't own this farm." Sometimes

(Continued on page 27.)

—R.N.S.





The author at work in his studio. This Pennsylvania artist has painted illustrations for leading national magazines and for book jackets, but recently, he has concentrated on religious art. A few of his paintings for the church school literature of the American Baptists and the Disciples of Christ are reproduced on the next page. His son is his model for the figure of Christ.

THE ART OF the world owes a great debt to the Christian. For nearly two thousand years, Christians have been leaders in esthetic achievement, and many have succeeded in capturing its ideals and inspirations, and transferred them to stone and canvas.

For the first five centuries, early believers—Jew, Greek and Roman—struggled in the dim dusk of the catacombs of Rome to give visual expression to their religion. Under the wavering glow of torchlight, they covered the vast walls of their underground meeting places with scenes and incidents from the scriptures. Of a truth, they certainly could be called the first illustrators. Crude as these early paintings were, they gave courage and strength to those martyrs who were facing the terror and torture of the arena. Perhaps

that is why Daniel in the lions' den was such a favorite subject as that theme was used many times. The remains of these pioneer efforts still stand as a tribute to the piety and belief of those first Christians.

The Edict of Milan, issued in A.D. 313, when Constantine the Great granted toleration to Christianity, marked the time when the church became the instrumentality that brought art to the masses. From then on, the Christian in art was not to hide his light under a bushel, for during the fourth century he appeared above ground, and the light of day shown down upon the churches of Italy, which he decorated with beautiful carvings and mosaics. With the shackles gone that bound him to the cave, his spirits soared and he created representations of biblical

subjects for all the world to see. The painter with his palette told the Christian story in the common language of the artist's brush, in a more compelling way than ever before. The works of art that followed became the people's Bible, and it was probably then that they realized, "A picture is worth ten thousand words."

Thus, the interest of the people increased in the new religion and was further extended when manuscripts explaining the Bible continued to appear. These were lettered by hand and many were decorated with colorful initials and embossed with precious metals by the devoted monks who made them. In order to make more understandable the story of Jesus, many manuscripts were illustrated with small paintings. Of course, in those days most of the people were unable to read and a picture had more value on that account.

About 1454-56, the first Bible was printed by Gutenberg. As

In centuries past, when few could read, great artists presented biblical scenes and characters that all could understand. Today, though the average man can read, he still derives spiritual knowledge and inspiration from the masterpieces of religious art. But let an artist tell the story

Christian in Art

By Ralph Pallen Coleman

A Christian in Art

the process of printing was developed and improved, editions containing engravings of pictures appeared, and in 1539 the Great Bible was produced. The title page contained a decorative border with sixteen scenes from the Old Testament.

The Christian in art reached the zenith of his power during the Renaissance, when the masterpieces of the glorious schools of Italy, Germany, and the Low Countries, came into being. They were in the form of murals for the magnificent buildings of that era, and the frescoes of Florence, and the superb designs of Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael and Michelangelo have been a heritage for all of us to enjoy. In that day, the Christian religion claimed the principal thoughts of scholars, philosophers and statesmen, and the artists of that period felt the need to prove their ability in the

delineation of sacred works. With the masses filled with a pious devotion to God, the art of the times reflected the religious fervor of the people, as the art galleries of today substantiate, with their numerous biblical paintings by the old masters.

A temporary separation of art from religion took place in the Puritanical movement of the Reformation. The Puritan rebellion against art was made in the stress of protest against existing conditions, and was narrow in its outlook. For years this attitude continued, but in time, religious people realized that the misuse of a thing was no reason for its complete removal. The interpretation of God's word in the glowing color of pigment is now appreciated by



most people, who realize that the real reason for religious art, is its revelation of the Eternal, and that it is the companion, and not the antagonist, of religion.

"In one ear and out the other" is a common saying, but one would hardly say, "In one eye and out the other." The impression one

PAINTINGS BY COLEMAN



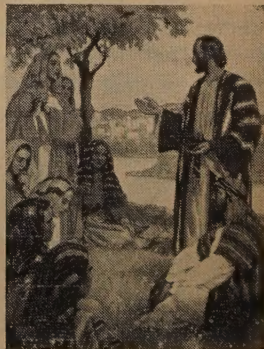
Jesus, Friend of Children



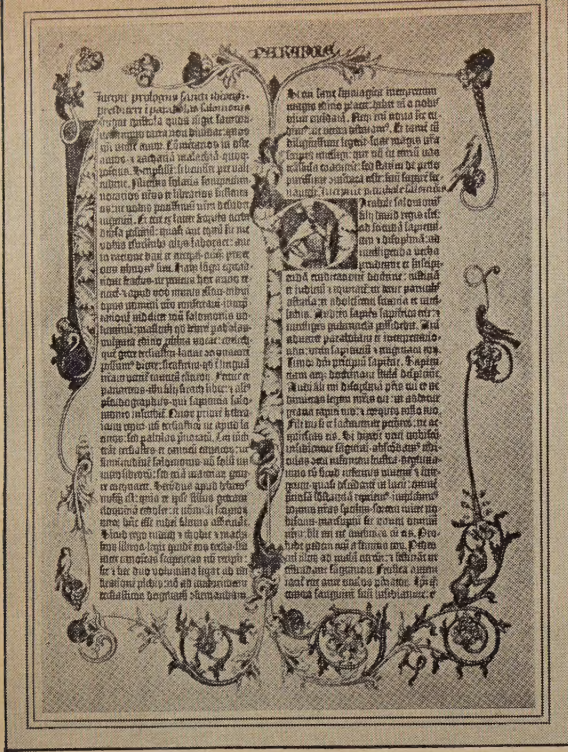
The Children's Song



Jesus in the Temple



A Church Outdoors



A beautifully illustrated page from the Mazanin Bible, printed by Gutenberg. This is the first printed Bible and the earliest complete printed book known.

receives through the eyes lingers longer in a person's memory, and is of the greatest value in the propagation of the Christian faith. The world-wide search for beauty is one of the desires of mankind, and the Christian religion can embrace that longing and make it a part of itself, with its appreciation of religious art. Today, more people are realizing its value, for now they are able to own reproductions of the greatest works of the masters, which previously were only available in the large cathedrals and homes of the wealthy.

Today, almost all denominations of Christendom recognize the great importance of the picture in promoting knowledge of the Bible and the story of the Savior. Over the years, thousands of pictures have been made to that end, but each new generation demands a new approach, and new pictures are made to fill that need. The Christian in art has a tremendous responsibility in the delineation of his characters.

Young children, making their first visit to the church school, are extremely impressionable. If the stories they are told are supplemented with pictures, as they frequently are, they will carry away a far more vivid conception of the scenes and characters, than they otherwise would. However, it is most important that the paintings be carefully thought out as to composition and color, and that the characterizations are conscientiously, yes, even prayerfully conceived. In painting the face and figure of Jesus, the artist is confronted with a formidable problem indeed, and it is only by a sympathetic and loving approach to his subject that he can hope to produce results that will appeal to Christian people.

Before the printing press, devoted monks painstakingly hand lettered and decorated books of the Bible and other religious literature.

It is a strange commentary, but when a young person leaves the church school and attends church instead, his need for religious art is thought by many to require no further satisfaction. But it is precisely at this time, more than at any other, when conflicting emotions beset him on every side, that he should be given the stimulus of fine religious pictures. They can be a rich source of spiritual and moral uplift, the same as a good sermon, as many can testify from their own experience. One may note the profound reverence with which people gaze upon Munkacsy's paintings "The Crucifixion" and "Christ Before Pilate" when they are exhibited at Easter in the court of a great store. Who can have seen the beautifully enshrined painting of Hofmann's "Christ in the Garden," in Riverside Church, New York, without coming away a better person for having viewed it?

In the final analysis, the Christian in art faces a challenge—a challenge not only to his ability as an artist, but also to his faith as a Christian—a challenge that he may conceive and execute the work he does with a deep conviction of its truth, and, in all humility and devotion, dedicate it to the glory of God.

[In selecting illustrations for HEARTHSTONE, whenever possible I have tried to enrich its pages by presenting reproductions of religious art masterpieces. Some of the artists represented are Renaissance, others modern. They include Pintoricchio, Della Robbia, Bacchiacca, Von Honthorst, Bida, Von Gebhardt, Barlach, Hole, Bloch, and others. And here is good news! Each month throughout 1954, a Rubens painting of one of the disciples will be used to illustrate "A Word from The Word." May you enjoy these beautiful pictures and their religious symbolism!—I. P. B.]

—Keystone View.





ILLUSTRATION BY VANCE LOCKE

To Look Ahead

BETH WORLAND'S smile, as she kissed her husband goodbye, had a faint tinge of martyrdom. Then, ashamed of her heroics, she returned his kiss with her usual sincere, if hurried, response.

She watched John's lean, gray figure as he walked down the driveway to the garage, and felt the familiar little pang at his tiredness.

Teachers—sincere, committed teachers—worked so hard for so little in these days of inflation. The raises could not keep pace with the prices. Not that John considered the compensation little, ex-

cept in money. But three children, one in college, required more than spiritual rewards.

In a way, Beth enjoyed her part of the sacrifice. Of course, she would have enjoyed more free time to read and be with her friends. But there was satisfaction in the work she did with her hands.

Now she set up the ironing board and connected the iron. She shook out the fine gingham dress with its multiple ruffles and began her task, with her mind still concentrating on the larger problems.

To be quite honest with herself, Ann, at eleven, and Sharon, at

John stopped in the doorway as Jeff said quickly, "Mom says you want to talk to me."

eight, cared less than nothing for the ruffles, much preferred T shirts and jeans. But the mother of daughters surely had a right to the pleasure she found in buying beautiful material and making clothes for them herself. Even with good material the dresses came to only a fraction of their cost ready-made.

Beth had been a plump little girl, one of a large family. There had been no time for the ironing of ruffles even if they had been becoming.

If only John could enjoy his chosen profession without being so harried by the economics of it. She tried not to let him know how tired her own share of it made her. John was so good; he was always so sorry she could not have nicer clothes, a better home.

She ran the point of the iron expertly into the gathers, and with expert fingers pulled the material into shape. Even if they had been able to afford it, no laundry should touch *these* dresses.

HER THOUGHTS ran on a little resentfully. It was *she* who must eventually make the sacrifice. For John must dress at least moderately well. He sometimes tried to persuade her that the girls and Jeff, who was away at school, could do with less, so that she could have more both in clothing and household help.

It was quite clear, though, that if John wished to progress in the teaching profession he dared not be shabby.

In their latest problem, however,

On the Scales

It was not meant that life should be
A dance nor yet a song of joy,
There must be times of fear and pain
When mirth is mixed with grief's alloy,
When storms will beat against the heart
And still the syllables of song;
Yet these are crucial tests to prove
If character be weak or strong.
But should the griefs and joys that make
The warp and woof of life's design,
Be gathered up with care and weighed,
The scales would tip toward days that shine!

INEZ CLARK THORSON

she could not agree with him. Must she go back to the statement her mother had so often made, not with bitterness but with what she believed to be the knowledge of experience, that men were just naturally selfish, and the sooner women accepted it the better for their peace of mind.

This philosophy came in direct opposition to what she had learned in all of her years with John. She had told her mother that if that were true, John must be the allowed exception to the rule.

But how explain his insistence that the sixty dollars, which would buy a suit, must buy one for himself. Surely, this once he could forego his needed suit—she couldn't deny his need—and let Jeff have the dark suit he so wanted for the social affairs at school.

Of course, John had gone to school on a shoe-string: no fraternity, no parties, only work and study. But that was depression time. He wasn't alone in his poverty. Now many of the boys had cars on the campus!

Beth hung the dress with its perky ruffles on a large hook on the door and shook out another. Four yet to go, and the morning nearly gone.

She could be more reasonable about it all if it were not for the thought she refused to give entry to her mind. Jeff was just eighteen. He had graduated from high school at seventeen and so was sure of this one year in college.

And of what else could he be sure in this year of world turmoil? If a dark suit would give him pleasure—even an unearned and unimportant pleasure—how *could* John, how did he, *dare* to refuse him?

Resolutely, she shut her mind to the fears she felt so near, allowed them only in the faster beating of her heart, the little tremor in her voice as she tried to sing—and discovered to her anger that she was singing, "White Cliffs of Dover." No doubt she could go back through all the wars, and end with "Yankee Doodle."

Were men insensitive, or did they not love their children with the self-sacrificing love of women? She didn't *know* how John felt, for she dared not voice her fears and allow them to become tangible and immediate.

ANN AND SHARON were in at 3:30 and by 3:45 were dressed in jeans and out in the May afternoon. Beth thought nostalgically of the remembered pleasure of a walk in the woods in May. But there was not time. She had promised the girls she would go with them *if* she got through with her ironing in time.

It was five before John was at home, and she could see from his bulging brief case that there would be papers to grade later in the evening. Years ago, she had had time to help him, had enjoyed keeping close to him through her understanding of his work, her knowledge of his aims in teaching.

After dinner was over and the girls had gone out to enjoy the remaining hours of daylight, she and John sat around the cluttered table.

"You look tired, Beth. Did you iron all day?"

"Yes, but you know I really enjoy ironing."

"Perhaps, but surely not so much of it."

If she weren't so tired, would she sense a criticism in his voice? She knew that he felt she spent too much time on the girls' clothes, and had once said, "The girls in plain blouses and skirts look very pretty, Beth. They must require less time. You could use the ironer for them, couldn't you?"

Her irritation at this memory came out in the tightness of her voice as she asked, "Did you order your suit today?"

His voice was even, but he rose to go to his papers as he answered, leaving the coffee he enjoyed so much unfinished in his cup, "No, Beth. When you can go along, I'll order it. You know I want your opinion."

But she knew with a guilty knowledge that it was her approval, not her opinion, he needed.

THE NEXT MORNING there was a letter from Jeff.

"Did you talk to Dad about the dark suit? I sure need one. Maybe I can borrow one, but I'd have a lot of use for one now and later on."

Would he? How much use would he have? . . .

Her eyes filled with tears and she wiped them with one corner of her apron as she had seen her mother do when her older brother had enlisted in the First World War.

Had her grandmother and her great-grandmother felt this overwhelming grief, this angry impotence at man's inability to learn? Beth saw a shadowy line of women all wiping their eyes on aprons.

How could John be so cruel? How must he feel,

if next year Jeff were thousands of miles away? Would he enjoy his new suit then? But even as the thought came, she recognized its insincerity. John didn't buy the suit for the pleasure it gave him. This one particularly, through her disapproval, could be only a source of discomfort to him.

But this time he was wrong; she was sure he was wrong. Tonight, she must let him know how she felt. She would not be able to restrain herself.

He had said, "But, Beth, Jeff doesn't actually need a suit. And you know how important it is *just now* that I look as well as possible. Someone will be chosen as principal, and it won't help my chances if I wear this threadbare suit for the end of school festivities."

How could he be so sure his choice was the right one?

Jeff would be home on Friday night; she knew he'd come hoping she'd been able to persuade his father. He didn't know it would mean there could not be suits for both.

AFTER THE GIRLS had gone to bed that night, she handed him Jeff's letter. And she tried to scan the evening paper as he read it.

After he had finished, he sat with the letter still open in his hand and stared at it, his brow lined, his mouth set—with determination or anxiety, she could not tell.

At last he said, his voice worried, "It's all wrong, Beth. I know how you feel; you know I do. But don't you see—"

Suddenly, as she allowed herself to recognize the grief in his voice, she did see. All the resentment she had felt at his attitude was replaced with understanding and sorrow for him, that he must be forced to make such a decision; that he must feel, too, that the situation somehow reflected on his ability to provide adequately for his family.

Unable now to control the tears that had been so near all day, she put her hands over her face and felt an aching sympathy for John, for Jeff, and for all grieving mothers and fathers everywhere.

She stood up quickly and left the room. She was wrong, of course. Had her wish to give Jeff the suit been partly a desire to make up in this little way for the times she had been impatient with him—even unjust? For the affection she hadn't given him when he needed it, not because she didn't love him, but because she was human and hadn't understood; for the times she had been too tired to listen and understand when he tried to tell her things? And

soon he no longer tried. Were all mothers like that, in spite of their love for their children?

The trite expression "her heart bled" for all the things she had to regret in their relationship seemed literally true. There *was* a real pain in her heart.

How much of maternal love was made up of regret for things not done? Of course, John was right and she was wrong. By being foolishly generous and lenient, parents could not make up for the uncertainty of the world and the mistakes they had made.

She washed her face and applied fresh rouge and lipstick. Then she went back to the living room, where John sat grading papers, his face white and worn. Next year, she thought, the girls should wear things she could iron on the ironer—in spite of her vanity. Then she could have more time for John.

She stepped behind his chair and, leaning down, put her cheek against his. "You're right, John. But you know how weak I am against this ever-present wish to give our children everything they would like to have if it isn't actually harmful."

His voice was a little unsteady. "Do you think he'll see that I'm not just thinking of myself?"

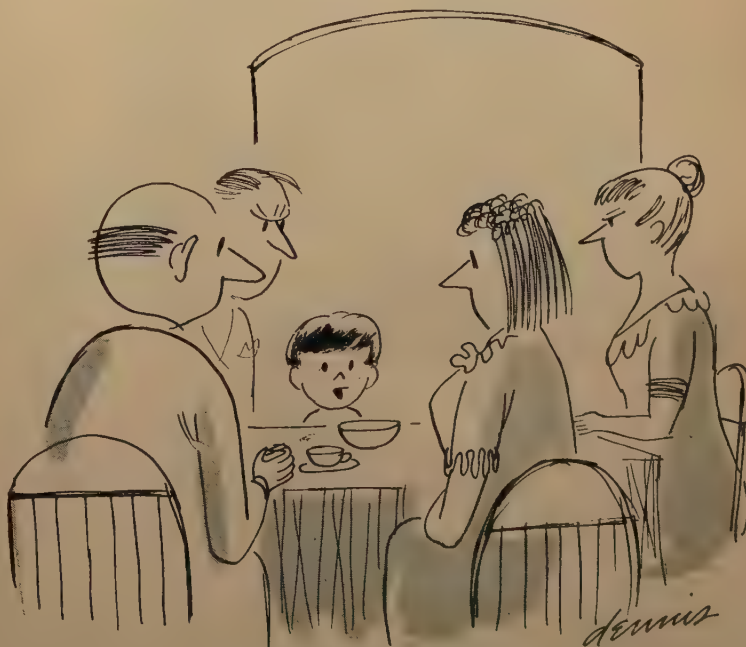
"I'll try to make him see."

"No, Beth. It's my decision."

Then a little wryly, "I'm the one who gets the new suit. I'll explain it to him."

IT WAS DINNERTIME on Friday, and they could not wait to see if Jeff would be there to eat with them, since John had a meeting. As they sat down at the table, Beth heard the front door open, then the bang of a suitcase, and a familiar greeting, "Hey, anybody home?"

And dinner became the usual half good-natured
(Continued on page 28.)



"I don't think they eat like horses!"

"Thanksgiving is 'thanksliving,'" says the author. And she tells parents how to help their children express their thanks. Here is a timely article parents will be thankful for



GROWING I

Adverse though their circumstances may be, these two children have learned to be thankful. They are foundlings at the Cornell University-New York Hospital School of Nursing. (R.N.S. photo.)

GLANCING out her playroom window, Patty was suddenly attracted by the bright scarlet leaves of a nearby maple tree. "Come here quick," she called to her mother, "and see the pretty tree."

"It is pretty," agreed her mother, coming to stand by Patty and admire it with her. "God makes so many beautiful things for us to enjoy," she continued. "Shall we thank him for our lovely maple tree dressed in its gay autumn clothes?" To both mother and daughter it seemed a natural thing at this moment to offer a brief prayer of thanksgiving.

Such incidental and informal prayers were not uncommon in this home. Having a deep consciousness of God's love and care, Patty's mother often found occasions for expressing thanks to God. Both by precept and example she was developing in her young daughter a spirit of appreciation and thankfulness.

Unlike Patty's mother, however, many parents do little or nothing to develop this spirit in their children. Too often, in fact, the parents themselves seldom think of being thankful to God. It is hard to understand why, in this rich land of ours, ingratitude is such a common failing. Never in the history of the world has a country been so blessed with prosperity. Yet many of us accept this abundance complacently, as though it were our just due. The more we have, it seems, the more prone we are to forget our dependence on the Source from which it comes.

"He that enjoys aught without thanksgiving is as though he robbed God," wrote one of the leaders of the early church. Surely, if there was ever a time in this land of plenty when we have no excuse for robbing God of our thanksgivings, it is now.

We have no excuse, moreover, for depriving the next generation of a rightful and valuable heritage. The first act of the Pilgrim Fathers when they landed on the shores of this country was to offer prayers of thanksgiving to God. Back even to earliest Bible times and all through the ages, we know that man has had a feeling of gratitude to the Source from which his benefits came. That this spirit has endured almost from the beginning of time testifies to its essential worth. This generation should feel a strong moral obligation to pass it on to the next.

Parents who recognize this responsibility often confess however, that they need guidance in carrying it out. "How best can we go about developing in our children attitudes of thankfulness?" they ask. Answers to this question are as many as are the methods of teaching and learning. These might well be divided, however, into three main ways. The child learns through the unconscious influence of the parents' personalities; through incidental happenings, observations, and questions; and through direct and planned ways of teaching.

Whether they wish to or not, or whether they even realize it, parents constantly teach through the power of example and suggestion. Attitudes are revealed even in the simplest action—a gesture, a facial expression, a tone of voice. Even before the child can understand words, he begins to catch the spirit of his parents, to sense how they feel.

Parents should not delude themselves into thinking they can teach an attitude they do not themselves possess. As a familiar couplet expresses it:

One cannot teach what he does not know;
One cannot lead where he does not go.

Parents must first recognize God's goodness themselves if they would teach their children to be grateful.

By VERDIA BURKE

A specialist in church school administration, the author is engaged in children's work at the Kearney, Nebraska, Christian Church, and writes articles for the Bethany Guide.

GRATITUDE

through the park, an hour in the garden or field, or a drive in the country will stimulate innumerable inquiries about the things that he sees. Wise parents will use these as opportunities to increase the child's appreciation of God as the Creator of nature's wonders. Most expressive answers can sometimes be given by parents who have stored in their memories appropriate poetry, scripture, or songs that they can use at the proper moment. Parents who attempt to memorize materials for such purpose find themselves growing in appreciation along with their children.

Parents also grow in trying to think out wise answers to the difficult questions that children ask, for many times their questions are not easy to answer. "I'm not going to thank God for anything tonight," affirmed five-year-old Bobby. "Why did he let Spot get run over?" That day a car had crushed the life out of his pet dog. His mother had to do some real searching of heart and mind as she tried to help Bobby feel secure in God's love even in this time of adversity.

Important as they are, however, incidental ways of teaching are not enough. There should be direct instruction and planned religious activities in the home. Appropriate scripture, stories, poems, songs, prayers, pictures, and books for the child's own reading can all be used to advantage at various times. Occasions for using these may include grace at table, family devotions, a story or reading period, family sings, and the bedtime hour.

Like Patty's mother, parents can often make use of incidental teaching opportunities that arise in the course of everyday living. There will be many occasions for helping the child express his thanks—thanks for parents and home, food and clothes, toys, pets, playmates—for everything that the child enjoys.

In many instances children's questions, if answered intelligently and sincerely, will help them feel a greater dependence on God and appreciation for his gifts. In her book *Our Little Child Faces Life*, Mary Clemens Odell has recorded many questions asked by her young son and the answers that she gave him. At first, she confesses, she "found herself putting him off with vague and unsatisfactory answers" as she hurried about her work. But soon she began to realize that she was missing a real teaching opportunity. By giving thought to her answers, she was able to lead the child to a growing appreciation of God, the Father, who loves and cares for his people.

Children's questions are often about the world of nature. Where do the clouds come from? What makes thunder? Why do the leaves fall down? The little child asks countless questions. A walk



Parents who would teach their children gratitude, must first recognize God's goodness themselves.
(R.N.S. photo.)

Prayer Time

Prayer time and close folded fingers,
Bended knees and small heads bowed,
Shining faces, eyes shut tightly,
Lips that murmur words aloud . . .
Simple "Thank you's" and "I'm sorry,"
Then the fond "Our Father" phrase;
Trustful asking, faithful blessing
For the dear ones of their days.
Hushed be every falling footstep;
Precious peace is in the air.
Like an altar candle's glowing,
Rises now the children's prayer.

GRETA L. ROSE

Good sources for such materials are the leaflets, booklets, and papers brought home from the church school. In the weeks just before Thanksgiving, of course, the theme of gratitude is especially stressed in these materials. Parents should appreciate this valuable help given by the church school by making more and better use of these excellent materials. This is one of many important ways in which church and home can cooperate in their common effort to help children.

Materials with the thanksgiving theme can be found also in numerous magazines and books, such as *Prayers for Little Children* and *My Own Book of Prayers*, both edited by Mary Alice Jones; *God's Wonder World*, by Bernice Bryant; *Then I Think of God*, by Mabel Niedermeyer McCaw; *As the Day Begins*, by Elizabeth McE. Shields; *A Child's Grace*, by Constance Bannister; *A Little Book of Singing Graces*, by Jeanette Perkins Brown. The songbook used by the child in the church school contains songs of praise and thanksgiving. Why not buy a copy for the home?

As to magazines, there is none better than HEARTHSTONE as a source for family worship suggestions, and for stories, poems, and prayers for children. *The Secret Place* is a good devotional quarterly for family use. Pictures, as well as poetry and stories, suggesting thankful attitudes can be found also in many secular magazines.

Children will develop a sense of gratitude through actively participating in religious practices in the home. They should take turns along with adults in saying grace at the table. For the young child this may be only a two-line verse, or a simple "Thank you, God, for food. Amen." As he grows older he should

be encouraged to express his thoughts in his own words. For variety, appropriate scripture and songs also can be used. The mealtime grace should never become a monotonous formality. All the religious activities of the home should be planned so that children can have an active part in them.

The celebration of special days and unusual events in the home should be times for remembering God's goodness. Christmas, Easter, Mother's Day, birthdays, and other anniversaries can all be thanksgiving days, as well as the day we annually observe in November. So should special events in the family—Mary brings home an excellent report card; Jack gets a Scout honor; Helen joins the church.

Children should understand, too, the importance of expressing one's thankfulness not only in words but in deeds. One can best show appreciation for God's gifts by sharing them with others, and by doing acts of service that are pleasing to him. From earliest years, children should be taught to share what they have, to be obedient and helpful in the home, to be kind to those who are ill or need help in other ways. The younger child, for instance, can help mother prepare a tray of food for a sick neighbor. An older child can mow the neighbor's lawn, or perform some other needed service.

Children should be encouraged to donate some of their own possessions to collections of toys, clothing, books, and the like, sponsored by community and church groups. Money gifts should be from the child's own allowance, not merely handed to him by his parents. He should understand the causes to which his offerings go.

A thankful spirit as it grows and develops can affect all of life. Thanksgiving is "thanksgiving." A sense of gratitude planted early in a child's heart and continually nurtured can flower into a full and happy Christian life.

The Simple Things

How lovely are the simple things

As we grow old:

A fire that spreads its cheering warmth
When days are cold;

A book to read in a quiet room;

A garden small;

Enough plain sustaining food to share
With friends who call

To greet me and my purring cat,
And stay for tea.

Yes, lovely are the simple things
God grants to me.

BESSIE GLADDING



—Merrim from Monkmeyer.

Violation of a parent-made law may create a storm. But parents should realize they are not infallible and a child may sometimes be right in questioning their decrees.

IF YOU ARE the father or mother of teen-age youth, you may expect them to “fly off the handle” occasionally. But if you respond in like manner, you not only complicate the immediate situation, but you thereby further the training of your young folk for a like, emotionally immature parenthood. So the undesirable chain reaction carries from one generation to another, until some wise parent deliberately breaks it and starts a better system on its way.

Indeed, you must not be surprised at—and you had better be prepared for—this violent reaction of youth. Such loss of temper is quite understandable. The teen-ager often loses control because he has not yet learned how to handle the new powers that are flooding his person so rapidly. The teen-age outburst is as much physical as it is psychological. This emotional instability is quite natural and will continue until the youth learns to know himself and has experience in handling himself. Don’t expect him to be adult in his reactions. That is to rush the matter, and to make him feel still more inadequate. It is to sow the seeds of inner conflict which will hound him all his life.

Of course, it is difficult for the parent not to react in kind. Like begets like. It

If parents must say something, then let them ask questions. They will thus give the youth a new realm to explore and provoke thought, which can be wonderfully quieting.

By Leslie R. Smith

Minister, Central Christian Church, Lexington, Kentucky; author of the books: *From Sunset to Dawn* and *This Love of Ours*

Flying off the Handle

In the home, temper begets temper. Besides, temper-storms, like tornadoes, leave only destruction. Perhaps what is needed is a pound of prevention, especially if parents are emotionally immature

is only natural that when one is accosted with temper, he retort with temper. This sets up mutual reactions which grow in intensity until the air is blue, until neither parent nor child is thinking, until harsh things are said, until foolish threats are made. Even when the storm subsides, and even though the will of the older may prevail, it is then that pride and face-saving on the part of both sides deny sane settlement, and the breach between parent and child is widened.

It would be folly to suppose that youth are always the instigation for a parent’s loss of control. Things

—Merrim from Monkmeyer.



may have gone very badly at the office. By the time Father comes home, his self-pity has reached its peak. For one reason or another, he may not have been able to wreak his vengeance during the day, so he "takes it out" on whichever member of the family crosses his path first. We are all prone to do this and so to hurt the ones we love most, simply because, subconsciously, we know we can get by with it.

Or Mother may have had one thing after another go wrong throughout the day. She stumbled down the back steps when she emptied the garbage. All day she has nursed a sore toe. The telephone rang just when she should have been taking the cake out of the oven. By the time she had finished her chat, it was burned black on the bottom. In a frenzied attempt to get it out of the oven, she burned her arm. With such a series of mishaps—and every mother has them—it doesn't take much to pull the trigger.

Again, many parents feel their word must be law. Such law is arrived at, not by mutual understanding, but by arbitrary decree. Variation from it by one jot or one tittle releases the storm. It would require but little mature reflection to note that this type of emotional outbreak is not even on a level with the teen-agers' "to be expected" outburst. It is a retreat to the bossism of the ten-year-old who is left in charge of a younger brother or sister and must make his authority felt.

Whatever the cause or justification for flying off the handle, we parents ought first to realize that the relationship between us and our youth is a training school in which those who will be the parents of tomorrow are indoctrinated. Whether they admire us or hate us, our children will become like us. This is food for thought. Is our reaction worthy of being perpetuated? If it partakes of the loss of control, it is not.

It then behooves us to do something about it. First, let us get acquainted with ourselves. Have we grown up emotionally? Are our feelings still easily hurt? Do we ourselves fly off the handle, re-

fusing to face the facts through the excuse that we are not feeling well or that everything has gone wrong? Can we quietly and sensibly discuss a mooted matter with our mate? If we cannot, it is a foregone conclusion that we cannot do so with our youth. Are we so un-American that we suppose our word is final law without mutually arriving at that conclusion? When we honestly face up to our own natures, our own reactions, a long step has been taken toward understanding. If, seeing our weaknesses, we begin to train ourselves out of them, this step is lengthened

Be not quick to anger,

**for anger lodges in the bosom
of fools.**

—Ecclesiastes 7:9

into a leap. Who of us, at whatever age, is without flaw? He who thinks he is, gives turbulent testimony that he is victim of the gross-est error—blind immaturity.

Next, let us try to understand our youth. Let us expect adolescent instability. Let us be patient with it. Let us not take an outburst as a personal affront. Let us think in such moments of the deep, underlying love and loyalty which our children have for us. Let us realize that just as they are quick to fly off the handle, so they are quick to calm down and to forget it. Let us remember too, that such emotional instability is accompanied by exaggerated remorse. This is the age when inferiority feelings become entrenched. A simple overture of understanding, a warm reassurance of love will often dissolve conflict and bring calm thought into action.

Third, if the cause for the outburst lies within us, then let us admit it. If we would only share this fact with the whole family, admit that we needed help, that we were about ready to explode, and then let the family make a game of trying to get us out of it, I'm

sure that all hands would be quickly set to such an adventure, and a possible, unsavory scene would be averted. The trouble is that, just as Robert Louis Stevenson, when feeling blue would go to the cemetery and sit on a tombstone in order to imbibe more grief, so we do not want to be helped out of our dour feelings and disposition. We want to nurse them until, through explosion, we give vent to our rights. It should also be said that if, after sincere efforts to control ourselves, we do fly off the handle, let us be quick to apologize. One experience in making such an apology will prove how appreciative our youth can be, and how quickly harmony can be restored. Try it and see.

Again, if we are prone to return like for like when our youth fly off the handle, let us decide to take a long breath, to listen, and to stall for time. Given sufficient leeway, a storm can soon blow itself out.

One of the best preventives to such outbursts on the part of both parents and youth is to have a family conference time regularly, to learn, when "the heat is not on," to discuss problems together openly and frankly. Then a frame of procedure is established for the difficult time when they do arise.

Finally, be sure to make prayer a part of all such family councils. If this is the habit, then prayer, the greatest leveling and calming force in life, will be a natural medium through which a Higher Counsel may be sought and sure control gained. But if it is resorted to just in the hour of emergency, it will rightly be looked upon as a trick technique to get one's own way.

Flying off the handle is a thing of which all are guilty who have any amount of spirit. Such wasted emotional power, if brought under control, can do wonders for good. We, as parents, hold the key for training our youth in how to deal with this universal problem. We are their unasked-for example. Then, instead of continuing a harmful chain reaction, let us break it and start a desirable one which will perpetuate the good for generations yet unborn.

with Young Children

A WORD TO PARENTS

The materials on this page and on the next two pages are for your use in moments of worship with your children. If you have a family worship service daily in your home, some of the materials here may be used at that time. If you use *Secret Place*, you may find that some of them fit into the meditations in that booklet.

Or, if you and your child have quiet moments together, apart from the regular family worship, the poems, songs and other materials given here may help you share an experience of worship.

Some of the poems, songs and prayers suggested here are from the graded church school materials. If your church uses these, your child will have brought home the books or leaflets in which these poems and other materials appear. He will enjoy using these with you at home.

The worship resources given here are divided into three sections: (a) for the 3-year-olds; (b) for the 4- and 5-year-olds; (c) for the 6-, 7-, and 8-year-olds. Should your child want to make his own book of devotions, cut, or let your child cut, along the colored border of each small page. He may paste each of these pages into a loose-leaf or spiral notebook, or on sheets of paper of uniform size to be tied together.

It is hoped that the materials on these pages will help you as you guide your child in worship experiences.

Theme for November: GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD

To Use with Children Three Years Old . . .

How wonderful it is to have a three-year-old child in your home! Even in the midst of the hurry and bustle of everyday activities, your heart overflows with gratitude to God for your child.

You want your boy or girl to know of your feeling of thankfulness and to have such feelings himself. That is, you want him to feel thankful for his home, his family, his friends, food, clothing and all of God's good gifts. You will need to help him put into words his feelings of thankfulness. For example, you can say, "Thank you, God, for a happy day," or a simple, "I am glad for Daddy," or "I am glad for flowers." Soon he may begin to express such feelings himself.

The leaflets or books which your child brings home from church school will contain songs, stories

and prayers that will help you and your child share moments of worship.

The attitude which you and the other members of your family display toward one another, as well as things you do, such as saying grace at meals, will help to convey to your child your feeling of gratitude.

For your own comfort, strength and inspiration, read the following words of Psalm 136. Perhaps you will want to read the entire psalm from your Bible.

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures for ever.
O give thanks to the God of gods,
for his steadfast love endures for ever.
O give thanks to the Lord of Lords,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
to him who alone does great wonders,
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

—PSALM 136:1-4



—R.N.S.

To Use with Children Four and Five Years Old . . .

(Cut around the colored blocks and paste each small page into your own book about God's love and care.)

THANKS FOR TODAY

We give thanks to thee, O God; we give thanks.

—PSALM 75:1

A Little Child Prays

I thank Thee, God, for each day
When I can work and I can play,
For my father and my mother,
Who care for me in every way.

Dear God, make me kind and good,
Help me do the things I should,
In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

—KATHLEEN ELSMORE CLARKEN

Poem

"Coats," by Grace Noll Crowell, *My Bible Leaflet*, No. 5.

THANK YOU, GOD

We give thanks to thee, O God; we give thanks.

—PSALM 75:1

Thank You, God

Thank you, God, that I should be
This happy, happy little me!
That I should jump and dance and run,
And have so many kinds of fun!
That I should skip and laugh and sing,
And race on roller skates and swing,
That I can do 'most *anything*!

Thank you, God, that I should be
This happy, happy little me!

—FLORENCE CECILIA ROBERTS

Story

"Precious Things," *My Bible Leaflet*, No. 6.

THANKS FOR NIGHT

We give thanks to thee, O God; we give thanks.

—PSALM 75:1

Evening Prayer

Thank you, God, for night and day;
For home and food and friends and play.
Take care of us tonight, we pray,
In Jesus' name. Amen.

—KATHLEEN NOBLE

Story

"A Happy Day in Isaac's Home," *My Bible Leaflet*, No. 58.

THANKS FOR OTHERS

We give thanks to thee, O God; we give thanks.

—PSALM 75:1

Company Grace

Dear Lord, bless our daily food,
May it strengthen us for good.
Bless our guest(s) with whom we share
God's rich blessings and loving care. Amen.

—CHRISTINA PULTZ ALTER

Stories

"A Happy Thanksgiving," *My Bible Leaflet*, No. 8; "Thanksgiving Day in Susan's Home," *My Bible Leaflet*, No. 60.

Poem

"Thank You, God," *My Bible Leaflet*, No. 60.

To Use with Boys and Girls Six, Seven and Eight Years Old . . .

(Cut around the colored blocks and paste each small page into your own book of devotions.)

THANKS FOR FALL

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good.

—PSALM 107:1

Happy Times

Dear Father, I am thankful
For the seasons of the year.
For springtime, when the trees awake,
And crocuses appear.
For summer, when the sun smiles down
And warms our swimming pool;
For autumn, when I roller skate
And ride my bike to school.
For winter, when the snow and wind
Make coasting so much fun.
Dear Father, I am thankful
For the seasons—every one.

—SHEILA BANE

Rebus

"Thank You, Father," Pupil's Book, First Year
Primary, Fall Quarter, page 22.

THANK YOU, GOD

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good.

—PSALM 107:1

A Prayer of Thanks

We thank you, Lord, for food to eat,
For home, for clothes to wear,
We thank you for the rain and sun,
And for your loving care.

We thank you for the summer flowers,
And for the trees that grow,
We thank you for the winter days
With school and fun and snow

—FLORENCE PEDIGO JANSSON

Song

"O Give Thanks Unto the Lord," Pupil's Book,
Third Year Primary, Fall Quarter, page 22.

THANKS EVERY DAY

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good.

—PSALM 107:1

Gratitude

I thank you, God,
For common things
That every single
Hour brings . . .

For home and warmth
And food to eat;
For folks to love
And friends to greet;

For health and strength
And lips to say
That I am thankful
Every day!

—NONA KEEN DUFFY

THANKSGIVING

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good.

—PSALM 107:1

Thanksgiving

We thank the Lord for fruitful fields,
For ample crops we share;
We thank Him for the rain and sun
And for His tender care.

God gives us each our daily bread,
And now in autumn days,
We have a special day for thanks
To give the Lord our praise!

—NONA KEEN DUFFY

Story

"A Sharing Thanksgiving," Pupil's Book, Sec-
ond Year Primary, Fall Quarter, page 23.

By VIRGINIA SNYDER

Member of the Music Department
Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary



—Paul's Photo.

ARE YOU ONE of those fortunate people who went to school when the basis of education was the "three R's"? In those days, when asked what grade you were in, you proudly announced that you were in the First Reader, or the Second. Do you remember the lovely picture in the Fifth Reader of the stag who "at eve had drunk his fill, ere sank the moon on

Monan's rill"? And the struggle you had with "Scots wha ha'e wi' Wallace bled"?

Whatever the grade, you were taught from the very beginning to stand up and read before the class.

Today, we have almost lost sight of the value of reading aloud, not only as an educational aid but as a recreational, social and, one might say, a public relations asset.

Perhaps we can't do much about it so far as school is concerned, but we can, and should, do something about it in the home. There are few better ways of drawing the family closer together than by occasional sessions of informal group-reading. You may tune in on all the good radio and television programs; but why not, as a well-known public reader suggests, get into the act yourself? It's much more fun to take part in a game than to sit on the side lines.

Where there are children in the home, much consideration should be given to reading to them, and this includes not only the "what" but the "how." Grown-ups tire too easily of "Little Red Riding Hood" or "Winnie the Pooh," and drone through them in a bored voice utterly devoid of imagination. Children are sensitive to the sound of voices, and their memories are phenomenal when it comes to the exact words of a well-loved, oft-repeated story. Poor reading can influence a child's entire future attitude toward literature. We must see to it that we instill in him at the earliest possible age a love for good reading, and the desire to learn for himself.

What about the teen-agers? Some of them may spend hours poring silently over a book. But consider for a moment the "public relations" aspect.

Young Richard is to read the Class History at his graduation exercises. You have read his paper with considerable pride, and go with pleased anticipation to hear him. He begins to read; you begin to squirm. You think: Why doesn't he speak up? Why does he read so fast? He sounds as though he had never seen the words

*Personal poise, food for conversation at home or abroad,
lively family interests, and shared inspiration*

—these are the results

When the famil

before! The truth is, Dick has a bad case of stage fright. Unused to reading aloud, he greatly fears an audience; his voice sounds to him as if it belonged to someone else. His whole idea is to get the thing over with as fast as possible. Perhaps that is the moment you resolve to have sessions of group-reading at home.

Then there is the social aspect. You are spending the evening with a few friends, and someone mentions a new book he has just finished. A discussion begins. You haven't read the book so you sit in growing embarrassment, having nothing to contribute. Perhaps, to your surprise, your husband joins in the discussion. You think rather bitterly that if you could sit down evenings as he does, with nothing to do but read, you could keep up on such things, too.

Why not save your mending and knitting and other "sit-down" chores for the evening and suggest to him that he read to you while you work? His choice may be the newspaper. Ask him to include the editorials. Then discuss them. You'll both enjoy that. After a while, he'll want to read magazine articles; other kinds of reading will follow. Many a husband and wife have strengthened the harmony of their home life by sharing their reading in this way.

So, if you have not already established the practice of reading aloud in your home, begin now. And begin simply. Choose something you really like. It may be a short story—Sherlock Holmes, O. Henry, Mark Twain. If there are young children in the group, try Kipling's *Just So Stories*. You'll have as

much fun over them as the children do. Your twelve-year-old son will probably be as intrigued by Poe's *Gold Bug*, Scott's *Ivanhoe*, or *Tom Sawyer* as he now is by radio's "Squad Room," "Hop-along Cassidy," or "The Aldrich Family."

A young girl, very attractive but by no means a mental giant, surprised a group of older people by her knowledge of the French Revolution. Complimenting her, someone asked if she specialized in French history in school. "Oh, no," she replied. "I don't really like history; but we've been reading Alexander Dumas at home all winter!"

The classics and deeper reading will have to be worked up to. That's reasonable. But after a while, try Shakespeare. You'll be surprised how much pleasure you can get from *The Merchant of Venice* or *The Taming of the Shrew*, with each of you reading a different role.

Then there is poetry. You don't like it? Well, the average American is very shy about voicing his emotions. He may feel as deeply as any poet about God and nature and a moonlight night, but he

won't—as he puts it—"gush" about them.

Suppose you try it. You'll make a discovery. Poetry was meant to be read aloud. The words are chosen not only to express a fine thought but to produce rhythmic, beautiful sound. Try this bit from Andrew Lang's "Seythe Song." Listen!

Hush, ah hush, the Scythes are saying,
Hush and heed not, for all things pass,
Hush, ah hush, and the Scythes are swinging
Over the clover, and over the grass.

Can't you hear the swish of those scythes?

Above all, read the Bible. It is still a best-seller. But how poorly
(Continued on page 29.)

reads aloud



—Lambert.

TWO MERRY little kittens went romping down the road. One was very black. One was very white. They had no home, and they didn't think they needed one.

When the sun was bright they liked to run after the yellow butterflies in the green fields. They chased little field mice, too, and thought they made a lovely dish for two hungry kittens. Why, they didn't need to bother with a home at all!

But one day North Wind puffed his cheeks up and blew very strong and cold. He made the crisp leaves tumble down and tickle the little kittens' ears. The field mice dug deep down into the soft warm earth, where the two kittens could not find them. Black Kitty had to ruffle his silky back, and White



Kitty snuggled down into her fluffy white coat to try and keep warm.

"We have a problem," said Black Kitty.

"Yes?" said White Kitty. "What is it?"

"We need to have a home," said Black Kitty.

"Everywhere is our home," said White Kitty. She waved her plummy tail to point at "everywhere."

"No," replied Black Kitty. "We must find a special house where people live and where we are always fed, and can keep warm."

"That will be hard to find," said White Kitty. "Let's walk down the road and look for one with a comfortable, warm, well-fed look."

So off they scampered. They stopped to look over every fence to see what hid behind it.

The first house they came to was

STORY FOR CHILDREN

How Black Kitty and White Kitty Found a Home



by Helen L. Renshaw

brown. It seemed to frown at them. The next house was very large and looked as though there would be plenty of room for two small kittens. But right by the front door sat the fiercest dog they had ever seen. Oh, how Black Kitty and White Kitty did hurry along.

"Perhaps our special house is just around the corner," said White Kitty hopefully.

And sure enough, there it was! Such a happy looking white house, with dainty blue curtains at every shining window. There was a delicious "sniffy" smell coming out the open door, and it made the two little kittens' noses go "Sniff. . . sniff!" Their pink tongues licked round and round. They both knew that this was the kind of house where any little kitten would be happy.

"They may not want two kittens," said Black Kitty quickly.

"No," said White Kitty slowly.

"We must each try alone," advised Black Kitty.

"Yes," murmured White Kitty sadly.

"I am the biggest kitty," said Black Kitty, "but I will be fair. We will measure tails to see which one of us shall try first."

White Kitty nodded meekly.

So Black Kitty stretched his long, shiny tail up tall. White Kitty stretched her short, fluffy tail up with all her strength, but it was simply no use. No matter

what she did, the black tail was a whole whisker's length longer. Black Kitty grinned and gave his back a pleased wriggle. Then he pranced gaily up the walk to the wonderful white house.

"How handsome he is," thought White Kitty. Then, having no place to go, she sat on the gatepost and waited to make sure Black Kitty had really found a home. She felt just a little lonely.

But Black Kitty was feeling very bold. He was not at all timid. He whisked himself right through the open door of the house and into the room where all that de-



licious smell was. He saw Nora, who was just taking a mince pie out of the oven. She was a very pleasant-looking person in a huge white apron and a pink dress.

Right away, Black Kitty saw a tall bottle on the table. He knew that the lovely liquid inside was called milk, and that it would taste very good.

When Nora saw the black Kitty, she smiled and said cheerfully,

(Continued on page 29.)

Let Recreation Re-create Your Home

By Idris W. and Elizabeth N. Jones

KINDERGARTEN children sing this song,

Our home is such a happy place
In every kind of weather,
Where mother, father, children, too,
Have happy times together.

That's a good theme song, isn't it, for a Christian home? If you are striving to create a Christian home, you will do just that—"have happy times together." You'll set about it systematically and consistently.

What is there about recreation in the family that helps its members to live Christian lives? One of the foundation stones of the Christian home is the fact there each person is important to the family. Each person has a definite position to fill in the family. In enjoying play together, in planning together for the family recreation, each one senses that importance. He helps his family to enjoy its leisure; he plays an important part in that leisure.

The second foundation stone is the emotional security which the Christian home provides for each member.

Everyone needs to feel that he is loved and cherished. When families take time to play together, to enjoy one another's company, they show their love for each other. In showing that love and enjoyment, the love and sense of genuine fellowship are strengthened.

Finally, the Christian home helps its members to consider the desires and pleasures of others before their own. It helps them to be good sports in the game of living. In actually playing together, in having fun together, all grow and develop in the Christian virtue of placing others before self.

So, as you seek to build your Christian home, as we seek to develop ours, let us think together about some of the many ways we can enjoy family recreation.

Do you have a definite time set aside regularly for family recreation?

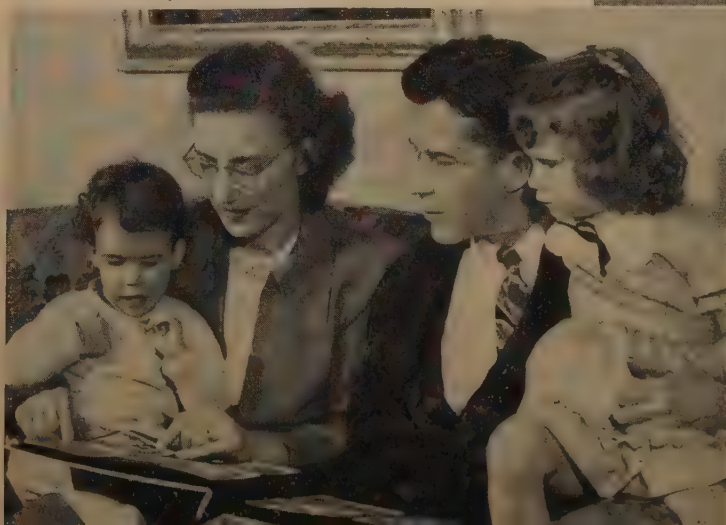
Some families have a particular evening each week when each member feels he has a definite date with his family. Such a family night can be spent at home, playing games together, making music if some play musical instruments, singing or reading together.

One family plans to use one "family night" each month to entertain special friends. Sometimes each member of the family invites

—Eva Luoma.



—Bloom from Monkmeyer.



Remember, it's the spirit of the game that counts.

An occasional family night with the album keeps alive family history. Besides, it's fun! Can't you just hear: "Is that me?" "That's the big fish Daddy caught!" "Did you dress that way, Mother?"

a particular friend of his own age. All join in preparing the meal and all play together after supper. On other nights, the family invites another family to share their fun with them. Occasionally, they invite a foreign student from the university. They spend happy hours hearing about home life in his country, and showing him how families work and play together in America. Because this sharing of "family night" with others requires planning and preparation, part of its value lies in the democratic discussion which takes place beforehand, as well as in the sharing of the preparations themselves. The rest of the month their "family night" is spent in family fellowship, but those evenings alone gain even added attractiveness because of the "change of pace" one night a month.

A family hobby can be enjoyed on family nights. Many collections take a great deal of arranging, preparing, cataloguing, and study. Some require field trips or excursions, which add more hours of happy family companionship. Sometimes each one has a different hobby. But as all work side by side, each one is interested in how the other is progressing, and family fellowship results.

Perhaps your family is interested in making its own furniture or rugs, in discovering recipes for new foods, or in building and equipping a recreation room. Such projects may be classified in your mind as "work" rather than as "recreation," but if all of your family thoroughly enjoys them, and if your family comradeship is strengthened by them, they are surely recreation.

Other families prefer Saturday afternoon for their special playtime together. Then excursions, picnics, visits to museums and art galleries, and all kinds of sports can be indulged in. One family regularly picnicked in a large city park on Saturdays during all but

the coldest months. Mother enjoyed the freedom from household tasks, and even played a carefree game of baseball with the boys. The daughter of that family still remembers, years later, her feeling of companionship with her father, as they often rented horses and explored bridle paths together. On these family days, the members of the family often pursued different interests in the park, but a feeling of family closeness was there, nevertheless.

One of the very best opportunities for family recreation is the family vacation. Whether this is a long month in the summer, two weeks in the winter, or a week at a time during the fall and spring, it still affords hour upon hour for wholehearted family enjoyment. Is the vacation planning in your family done democratically by the whole family, considering the needs of all? Or is it decided arbitrarily by Mother and Father, regardless of the desires and special needs of the others? Try planning your next vacation together. Make it a project of your "family night" for several weeks. Send for descriptive folders of places each would like to visit.

Discuss the budget and the cost of various places. Invite friends to share with you experiences of their vacation. Consider what type of recreation is available at each place for each member of the family. Does Mother need a rest from meals and dishes? Does Daddy need opportunity to vacation in the sun after a year at a desk? Does Sister Sue need a place to swim and hike and develop muscles not used during the school year? Or do you all need the stimulation of sight-seeing in a strange city? Or the relaxation of a leisurely motor trip? Or the inspiration of an extended period at one of your state or national religious assemblies? Whatever your final decision, your vacation will be all the more enjoyable because your fam-

ily fellowship will be undergirded by the planning of all.

Perhaps you have a family cottage where you vacation year after year. If so, set aside several evenings during the year to plan for your vacation there. Could it be made even more enjoyable than last year? Would added conveniences help? What things do you all particularly like to do there? Does everyone share in a real vacation there, or must some work harder to provide leisure for a few? Plan how you can remedy that. The really fine family vacation is the result of much advance planning, and the consideration for the needs and likes of all. It does not just happen.

Is your home planned so that family recreation is possible there? Many homes are artistically furnished, expensively equipped, and yet have no room or space where the family can enjoy recreation together. If your home is large enough, you might have a "family room" where you can play games, listen to records, keep collections, work on hobbies, have indoor picnics. But many of us do not have sufficient space to allocate a whole room to recreation. Then we must decide to make parts of the house adaptable to the kind of recreation our families enjoy. The kitchen cupboard or a chest in the dining room might hold the tools for the family hobby. A closet, or even a corner screened off in the living room, might contain the table and equipment necessary for an evening of games. Make room for collections to be displayed. When you have decided in your family council just what form your family recreation will take, go a step further. Plan definitely where you can carry on this recreation, and what preparation is needed. If your home is a place where all members of the family can enjoy their own special interests, and where you all have good times together, you will find the family

Spontaneous or planned, at home or away from home, family recreation helps parents and children live happy Christian lives and increases feelings of security and family solidarity

content to take its recreation there. You will not need to worry because home seems to be just a place "to hang the hat."

Does your family recreation include all types of activities? For instance, do you occasionally enjoy spur-of-the-moment, unusual good times, as well as carefully planned ones? In our family one of the memorable days was just such a spontaneous celebration. It had snowed, the kind of feathery snow that is just right for sledding, and snowballing, and sliding. Because it was so beautiful, the whole family bundled up in snow togs and headed for a near-by college campus. There we pulled the young ones on sleds, played fox and rabbits, threw snowballs,

jumped and rolled, and got gloriously wet! When we returned home to hot baths, a warm supper, there was a glow to our family fellowship not often experienced. It was fun because it was so unexpected, and so different from our usual dignified pursuits.

Finally, *do you take time at the close of your fun together to thank God for your happiness?* Many families end their family nights with a time of family worship. After a picnic out of doors, sing a good-night hymn of praise. After an evening of games and music, join hands and acknowledge the presence of your Unseen Guest. Thus will your recreation really help to re-create your home until it is a truly Christian one.

"Let's Talk About Traditions—Family Traditions," by Lulu S. Hamilton. Sept., 1952, p. 2.

"Does Family Camping Make a Difference?" by Russell Hawley Bishop. July, 1952, p. 10.

"Sunday Night Suppers by the Children," by Edith R. Cook and Janet C. Holmes. Nov., 1952, p. 22.

"Family Customs Do Count," by Leslie R. Smith. Dec., 1952, p. 5.

"Family Nights at Home Can Be Fun," by Elizabeth and Edwin McClain. Mar., 1953, p. 16.

c) Special Information:

For family vacations, write to your denominational headquarters for lists of conferences and assemblies. For family trips, write to various states for information on parks and places of interest. Or, consult your library for the State Guides, and your near-by gasoline service station for road maps showing places of historic importance.

II. On the Mark!

The study article raises several important questions:

1. *What in recreation helps members of the family in living the Christian life?* The answers to this question are important, not only as they stress the contribution of family recreation to the enrichment of the Christian life, but also because they should lead individuals

WHEN CHILDREN COME WITH YOU

Plan to have a leader who may:

Conduct a Story Hour. Stories of Thanksgiving may be found in the primary and junior story papers and in books, such as *Another Story Shop*, by Mary C. Odell. This book and other books of stories may be secured from the public library, the school or church library.

Guide in Making Articles. Favors and place cards for the Thanksgiving table may be made. Suggestions are given in such books as *Here's How and When*, by Armilda Keiser, and *Holiday Craft and Fun*, by Joseph Leeming. Sometimes suggestions are included in the primary and junior story papers.

Direct Games. Games appropriate for all ages and for both large and small groups are included in the book *Games for Boys and Girls*, by E. O. Harbin. Other books of games may be borrowed from the public library.

STUDY GUIDE

I. Get Ready!

1. In Preparation.—

The field of family recreation is almost as broad as the variety of family interests. In one brief program, therefore, it is impossible to cover all phases of the subject thoroughly. The leader may feel that it is desirable to take a quick, exploratory trip into many fields of family recreation, or he may desire to concentrate more thoroughly on one or two phases, such as family recreation in the home or family vacations. In any case, the leader will find it helpful to begin the meeting with a brief presentation of the Christian implications or philosophy of recreation. These are suggested in the opening paragraphs of the article on which this Study Guide is based.

Begin the meeting with an informal "song fest" of numbers that might be enjoyed by the family. Start with informal fun songs, such as "Little Sir Echo," "Down in the Valley," "Upward Trail," "Sing Your Way Home," "Happy Days" (a round), or other similar ones to be found in most songbooks prepared for youth fellowship groups. Then close this "song fest" with a hymn or two, such as "This Is My Father's World" or "God Who Touchest Earth With Beauty." Follow the hymn or hymns with a prayer. A previously chosen member could then present a statement concerning recreation in Christian family living. From this point the discussion could be based on suggestions given in "On the Mark!"

2. Resources—

a) Books:

Home Play, by the National Recrea-

tion Association. Association Press, 1945. 95 pages; 25 cents.

The Family Pleasure Chest: 1,000 Family Fun Ideas, by Helen and Larry Eisenberg. Parthenon Press, 1951. 207 pages; \$1.00.

Good Times for God's People, by Marion Jacobsen. Zondervan Publishing House, 1952. 286 pages; \$3.95.

After-Dinner Science, by Kenneth M. Swezey. McGraw, 1948. 182 pages; about \$3.00.

The Fun Encyclopedia, by E. O. Harbin. Abingdon-Cokesbury Press, 1950. 1,008 pages; \$3.95.

b) HEARTHSTONE Articles:

HEARTHSTONE is rich in resources for family fun. Every month, its regular feature "For Good Times in the Home" contains detailed suggestions for games, stunts and party plans. These are for all ages and are written by Loie Brandon, Irene Dacus, Helen Houston Boileau, Walter King, and others. Besides, there are directions for crafts and hobbies. All these may help you with your plans. And here are some general articles:

"Vacation at Home," by George Holwager. June, 1950, p. 32.

"Is Your Family Fun?" by Doris Clore Demaree. July, 1950, p. 10.

"Have a Singing Home," by Belle Chapman Morrill. Sept., 1950, p. 2.

"Let's Have a Picnic," by Herald B. Monroe. June, 1951, p. 13.

"Making the Most of Vacation," by Glenn H. Asquith. July, 1951, p. 8.

"Family Traditions Are Fun," by Ashley G. Booth. Feb., 1952, p. 18.

"The Family Goes on Vacation," by Frances Dunlap Heron. June, 1952, p. 7.

to see that the Christian commitment is a determining factor in a person's recreation. The article stresses some values; possibly the group may suggest additional ways in which recreation and the Christian life are related.

2. *Do you have a definite time for family recreation?* Most schedules these days are so crowded that family recreation may lose out unless a definite time is reserved. Explore with the group their experiences in finding specific and adequate time for family recreation.

3. *Is your home planned so that family recreation is possible?* In any sizeable group, there should be a variety of ways in which families have used their homes for recreation, especially for recreation of an informal nature. Have them share their experiences.

4. *Does your family recreation include all types of activities?* Family recreation should be fun for all, and all should have a part in whatever planning is done, and each person's suggestions should be

considered. Where there are several children in the family, it is not possible every time to decide on recreation in which all are interested with equal enthusiasm. The members of the family, however, will enjoy their various times together when they know that the wishes of each one are considered at some time. An equally important factor where games or skills of any kind enter the picture, is consideration of inequalities in ability because of age or sex. Cooperative recreation in which each shares according to ability is worth discovering.

There are many forms of recreation which individual members or father-son or mother-daughter combinations may enjoy even though other members of the family do not enjoy them—baseball, football, fishing, and golf, for example. Valuable as such experiences are it would be well to limit discussion to such forms of recreation that families as families can enjoy.

5. *Recreation and worship.*—There are many times when family recreation will

end in a feeling of thanksgiving for good times together. Where such a spirit is present it should be expressed in informal worship, but it should not be awkwardly introduced if it is missing. Ask those present to describe their experiences.

The meeting could be concluded with the group looking at a picture of one of our beautiful nature scenes set up as a worship center. The worship leader might then read the words of the 19th Psalm and close with a prayer of thanks for families and the good times they have together.

III. Go!

This meeting should lead each family to—

1. Decide on definite times for family recreation.

2. Plan activities in which all can share with pleasure.

3. Be alert to informal and impromptu opportunities for family recreation.

BIBLEGRAM

By Hilda E. Allen

Guess the words defined below and write them over their numbered dashes. Then transfer each letter to the correspondingly numbered square in the pattern. The colored square in the pattern. The colored squares indicate word endings. If read from left to right, the words contained in the filled pattern will be a selected quotation from the Bible.

A A leader, like Sitting Bull-----	104 92 117 88 58
B Kind of wrap that ghosts are supposed to wear-----	23 120 108 112 24
C One or the other-----	6 19 76 10 121 71
D Part of a cowboy's riding gear	45 55 116 20 64 39
E A close bunch, like in football	25 62 37 54 122 21
F More than just pretty-----	40 14 42 11 34 56
G A tight squeeze-----	15 69 82 118 78 32
H Takes the dirt off-----	12 95 80 46 26 5
I To share-----	38 47 98 41 72 33
J Little cat-----	87 93 31 51 77 17
K Opposite of outside-----	102 85 18 8 125 43
L An assistant-----	67 53 96 73 99 22
M Where the tail is-----	1 68 13 97 124 7
N There is one on a pail-----	81 84 50 86 107 89
O What you do when sleeping-----	109 30 101 105 83

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	12	13	14		15	16	17	18	19	20
23		24	25	26		27	28	29	30	31
33		34	35	36	37		38	39	40	41
44	45		46	47	48		49	50	51	52
	54	55	56		57	58		59	60	61
64	65		66	67	68		69	70	71	72
74	75	76	77	78	79	80		81	82	83
85	86		87	88	89	90	91		92	93
95	96	97	98	99		100	101		102	103
105	106	107	108	109		110	111	112	113	114
	117	118		119	120	121		122	123	124

Solution on page 28.

P A tornado, or a hurricane, for instance-----	91 119 16 36 48
Q Easy-----	9 49 94 27 2 65
R Tramps-----	100 28 63 57 114
S Crowing chicken-----	74 35 61 4 59 3 44
T What braggers do-----	110 29 123 103 66
U An oyster's house-----	113 52 115 106 111
V A body of soldiers-----	79 60 75 70 90



form in public and take active roles in civic, as well as church and P.-T. A. functions. Besides, how much financial judgment do you have at 18? Have you done enough buying to be a shrewd bargainer? Marriage is a corporation. It involves finance and budgeting, as well as infant care, balancing menus, entertaining for your husband in his business or profession, and keeping your children proud of you.

Besides, you need wide social perspective before your marry. If you have dated only one boy, you don't know enough about masculine psychology to understand husbands properly. You ought to date many boys. A year at college thus takes you away from home and your little social circle. It adds perspective. A "mountainous" high school romance may appear like a "molehill" three months after you have been on a college campus. There you will meet ambitious boys from all over the state or nation. They will make a good yardstick against which to measure your home-town Romeo.

If he is the real McCoy, he will stand up creditably against this comparison. If he isn't, wouldn't it have been tragic to have married him at 18? So get at least one year of extra education beyond high school, whether this be a business college course or a year on a Liberal Arts campus. Then hold a job for a year or two, so you understand how tough it is to earn a living, and so you can learn how to handle money more wisely.

Family Counselor

Carol is smitten by Cupid's darts. But Cupid can shoot you several times before you die, so don't be stampeded by the thought, "If I don't marry now, I'll NEVER experience love again." Paste this Case Record in your scrapbook. Discuss it at high school.

Carol G., aged 18, graduated from high school last semester. "Dr. Crane, should I get married or go on to college?" she asked. "I have gone with only one boy. We have dated steadily since we were sophomores in high school. He has a good job in his father's garage, and insists that we get married. But my parents say I should wait at least a year. For they want me to go on to college, at least one semester, so I can gain a little more education. I don't know just what to do. Sometimes I think my daddy is right, but when I am out on a date with my boy friend, then I want to get married."

CAPTAIN BRAIN

Your brain should always be the captain, and your emotions the crew. Never permit the crew to mutiny! Emotions don't occur only once. You can fall in love several times. So face these modern facts: The average city girl nowadays doesn't get married till she is approaching 23, so why be a "child" bride of 17 or 18?

Marriage is a real career. It involves far more than dishwashing

and cooking. A successful wife nowadays should have enough education to "front" well for her husband and her children. This means she should be able to preside at meetings of her woman's group at the church, or serve as an officer at the P.-T. A.

Remember, your husband may move ahead in the world and have a desire to hobnob with important people. He may need to entertain his clients or customers occasionally. If you rush into marriage at 18, what sort of hostess will you be when he brings home educated folks for a party?

PLAY FAIR

Are you playing fair with your future unborn children if you rush into a teen-age marriage? For you know that boys and girls take pride in having mothers who can per-

All in the Family

Sgt. Billy Maughmer walked into his Walton, Indiana, home on furlough as a reporter was asking his father when he expected his son home from Korea.

The hopes of Henry Rahming, Murphysboro, Illinois, for a boy were borne out all right—by twin boys. But they arrived three years too late to save him from a blistering hike. Last time the Rahmings were expecting—back in 1949—Henry made a wager to walk barefoot from their home to Gorham, thirteen miles away, if it wasn't a boy. It wasn't.

Ten bowlers named Mertens entered a bowling tournament at Spokane, Washington. They were all related—the father, John J., and his nine sons, whose ages range from 17 to 28.

Among those awarded degrees by Southern Illinois University were a mother and her son, Braxton Williams, 26, and Mrs. Corryne Williams. Braxton supported his wife and three children while earning his degree.

—HAROLD HELFER

Let Your "Punkin" Plan Her Party

by Gertrude Perlis Kagen

WHY NOT LET your youngster plan her own party? Why not let her play hostess? Of course, some supervision on your part may be necessary. But let your child plan as much as she can by herself.

Five-year-old Carolyn invited guests to her party who were her own choice and age. She printed her own party invitations with her mother's help. She used a Ranger theme. Cutting invitations in the shape of a horse, she designed her party favors in the shape of a corral.

She planned her own games. One of her ideas was to cut slender ribbon bands. "We shall blindfold each child, and see who can pin a band around a cowboy hat, closest to where it belongs," she said.

She filled a bottle with candies resembling miniature cowboy boots so the children could guess how many it contained. These served the purpose of small prizes at the party after the guessing game was over. She chose prizes that carried out the Ranger motif, such as "Home on the Range" coloring books.

You will be surprised in how many ways your small child can help when the big day arrives. Even a tiny "tyke" can frost the birthday cake and fold the napkins.

My own daughter carried out her idea of arranging place-card favors in this way: "A close friend here, and a not-so-close friend next to her, so they can get to know each other better."

When Douglas, my small son, had a party, he put an animal cookie in each dish of jello. And if they were placed slightly crooked, he painstakingly arranged them himself.

Another point to bear in mind is that your child will benefit from the experience of playing hostess. Why not let her receive her little guests and manage the introductions? A friendly greeting such as "Hello, Tommy! Come in!" will be sufficient. "Linda, this is Billy," will serve as an introduction. In this manner, the children immediately feel

at ease. Of course, you must not expect your child to play the part of a perfect hostess. You should show no surprise if she suddenly hops on one foot, or jumps up and down with excitement. But on the whole, you will find that your child is gaining self-confidence and reassurance.

It is well to remember, when the children engage in competitive games,

such as carrying peanuts on a knife, that your child should award each guest an identical prize. This will not arouse any feelings of jealousy, inferiority, or superiority. Each child will feel confident that he is exerting his best effort.

Frequently, parents are reluctant about letting their children have birthday parties because the child places too much emphasis on the presents rather than upon the party. They feel that this will encourage a greed for presents in their youngsters.

This can often be attributed to the parent's refusal to permit the child to have any part in preparing for the party. As a result, the child feels that no part of the party is actually his, except his presents. If, as already mentioned, the child is permitted to assist with the planning and arranging, for example, in selecting the paper plates, napkins, favors and prizes, then the fun will take precedence over the presents. So much enjoyment will be derived from the planning, that the gifts will be considered only secondary.

Why not let your "punkin" have a hand in planning her own party? If you do, you will find she will benefit immeasurably by the poise and social graces she will unconsciously cultivate.

BIBLE PUZZLERS

Finders Not Keepers

by Ruth May Knell

I. If you "found" these Bible characters and events, could you direct them back to the book from which they came?

1. David and Goliath	8. Delilah betrays Samson	a. Genesis	g. Luke
2. Resurrection		b. 1 Kings	h. Deut.
3. Birth of John the Baptist	9. Birth of Moses	c. Matt.	i. Joshua
4. Walls of Jericho fall	10. Sermon on the Mount	d. Exodus	j. Judges
5. David's trust in God	11. Daniel in the lions' den	e. 1 Cor.	k. Daniel
6. Creation	12. Wise Men visit Bethlehem	f. Psalms	l. 1 Sam.
7. Solomon's wise decision			

II. Can you send the character-traits in the second column home to their Bible-personality-owners in the first column?

1. Eve	7. Jehu	a. Courageous	g. Persuasive
2. Ruth	8. Noah	b. Obedient	h. Disobedient
3. Daniel	9. Judas	c. Powerful	i. Deceitful
4. Lot's wife	10. Moses	d. Dishonorable	j. Weak-minded
5. Samson	11. Delilah	e. Callous	k. Wise
6. Solomon	12. Adam	f. Trustworthy	l. Loyal

New Testament Double Names

By May C. Smith

There are very few "double" names in the Bible. Here are ten of the most familiar. Can you sort them out? Place the correct number of the man's first name in the second column.

1. John	6. Judas	—Thaddeus	—Justus
2. Sergius	7. Joses	—Ischriot	—Mark
3. Herod	8. Barsabas	—Festus	—Peter
4. Lebbaeus	9. Porcius	—Barnabas	—Pilate
5. Pontius	10. Simon	—Agrippa	—Paulus

(Answers on next page.)

Finders Not Keepers

I

1. l	5. f	9. d
2. e	6. a	10. h
3. g	7. b	11. k
4. i	8. j	12. c

II

1. g	5. c	9. d
2. l	6. k	10. f
3. a	7. e	11. i
4. h	8. b	12. j

Double Names in New Testament

1. John Mark
2. Sergius Paulus
3. Herod Agrippa
4. Lebbaeus Thaddeus
5. Pontius Pilate
6. Judas Iscariot
7. Joses (Joseph) Barnabas
8. Barsabas Justus
9. Porcius Festus
10. Simon Peter

Meaning of Thanksgiving

(From page 3.)

we are as richly blessed in the things which do not come to us as in the things which do. Surely, a recognition of what we have been spared—as individuals and as families—will quicken our consciousness of God's love.

There are many ways in which the members of a family can join in sharing the rich experience of sincerely giving thanks. For example, the members of one family joined at Thanksgiving time in writing brief notes of appreciation to others—for their friendship. Other families have said "Thank you" to God by extending the hospitality of their home to others—a newcomer in the community, a student from a foreign land, or a lonely individual or family.

In countless rural areas, church families join in harvest festival services, sharing their harvest with hospitals, homes and schools. Families in cities have enjoyed a similar experience by having a day set aside for "canned harvest" donations. Or, if your family has a flower, vegetable or herb garden, you may want to pot a number of small flowering plants and send them to aged and shut-in friends.

Above all else, on Thanksgiving Day your family will want to join in thanksgiving worship—at spe-



Don't Forget the Absent Ones

by Rosalie W. Doss

OF ALL OUR American feast days, Thanksgiving is truly the traditional family holiday. This is the one day in the year when families make a special effort to get together.

But sometimes when families are widely scattered, it is impossible to gather all the dear ones around the family board, especially the young sons and daughters who have jobs away from home or those in military service.

During World War II, when so many of our young relatives were in the military service, we started a Thanksgiving custom in our family that still survives. After the big Thanksgiving dinner, a round-robin letter was started for those members of the family who could not attend. Each guest wrote a short note to the absent one. Even the tiny first-grader added his sentiments in big printed letters.

We tried to make our notes warm and friendly. We told who had contributed what to the Thanksgiving dinner. Aunt Jane made her usual bowl of delicious potato salad. Grandmother herself presided over the roasting of the big turkey. Cousin Marjorie brought the pumpkin pies. And as usual, Uncle Fred had his little joke about the two helpings of pie he had. According to him, he took the first slice because he was hungry, and the second just to be polite.

We described how large and pretty the chrysanthemums were. And we spoke of the beauty of the russet and gold leaves on the maple trees behind the house.

We gave a description of Grandmother's new blue dress and how

lovely she looked in it. We also told how Grandfather remembered each of the ones so far away in his Thanksgiving prayer.

We told all these little things—descriptions of familiar things, and the little family jokes. These were the things we knew they wanted to hear about.

And we found out later that these round-robin letters were truly appreciated. Those who received them said they gave them a feeling of close family kinship.

A soldier in Korea, a teen-age cousin or niece away at a distant college, or a young family with children too small to travel—all will feel especially grateful and happy to be remembered in this way. They will feel they had a share in the family celebration.

Yes, Thanksgiving can truly strengthen family ties. So this year, along with your prayers of Thanksgiving, let us not forget the absent ones. Just a line or two from each one at the Thanksgiving feast will do much to help bring real meaning to this wonderful family holiday!

HEARTHSTONE would like to have its readers tell how they have handled difficult family problems. Contributions should be limited to 500 words or less. Those which are accepted will be paid for at regular rates. All unpublished manuscripts will be returned if they carry return postage. Here is a chance for our readers to help others!

cial services in your church, and at the table or altar in your own home. In its most simple form, such worship may consist of saying grace at table, but to this may be added the use of songs, poetry, litanies, and Bible readings.

Finding the real meaning of

thanksgiving may well transform our lives. Families who are conscious of the goodness and love of God live thankfully every day. And in this kind of living they find the joy and happiness of Christ. The leper who returned to give thanks was the happiest of all.

To Look Ahead

(Continued from page 9.)

wrangle between the girls and Jeff, who teased and fought with them but found them much dearer after a few weeks' absence.

He had been too much older than they to find any real companionship with them.

Beth watched her son with a kind of amazement. He was so grown-up, so full of apparent assurance, and so gay. How must it be to be able to make no plans, to look ahead with no certain future? (Of course, she knew that no future is ever certain, but not with the kind of uncertainty this younger generation must face.)

He looked around at the dishes, not completely empty, and said, "Now, if I could only have this next week. But I just can't cram down another bite right now."

She laughed, "I'd be afraid for you to."

And John added, "It's amazing! Where'd you put it?"

"Say, now, if you'd see what we have to *exist* on, you'd understand why I have so much room!"

"I'll bake you a strawberry shortcake tomorrow."

"Swell!"

RELUCTANTLY John hurried out to his meeting, saying he'd only be gone for

an hour, and for Jeff to stay around until he came back.

As the door closed behind him, Jeff said, "Didya ask him about the suit, Mom?"

Beth answered slowly, unable to leave him still hoping until John could break the news of the decision, "Yes, Jeff, and the answer is No. But your father wants to tell you why."

His face became almost sullen, and she longed to tell him that she'd been wrong, that John might still change his mind.

Jeff helped her carry out the dishes and dried the glasses and silverware, his disappointment forgotten, or dissembled, she was unable to decide which.

The conversation was strained. Why could she not make him see how important it was to them that he should be happy, make him understand that their lives were only important to them now through their children, that later when they were grown, perhaps she and John could again think of themselves, but that now their plans were all involved with the well-being of the three of them?

But one generation could never understand another; she had not understood her parents, or they her. If once in a while one generation reached out and made even a *slight* contact with the other, it must be satisfied.

SHE WAS RELIEVED to hear John's step on the porch. It was hard not to be

BIBLEGRAM SOLUTION

Biblegram, page 24.

Blessed is he who considers the poor!
The LORD delivers him in the day of trouble;
the LORD protects him and keeps him alive;
he is called blessed in the land.

—PSALM 41:1-2

The Words

A Chief	L Helper
B Sheet	M Behind
C Either	N Handle
D Saddle	O Dream
E Huddle	P Storm
F Lovely	Q Simple
G Clinch	R Hobos
H Washes	S Rooster
I Divide	T Boast
J Kitten	U Shell
K Inside	V Troop

forever trying to make that contact—to not attempt to explain John's decision.

John stood awkwardly in the doorway, and Jeff said quickly, to get it over, no doubt, "Mom says you want to talk to me."

"Yes, Jeff."

They walked out onto the porch, and Beth finished her work in the kitchen. She heard the murmur of voices and felt again a kind of wonder that it should be two *men's* voices; that Jeff was not a boy for whom she should make decisions; that he must now be allowed to make and face the consequences of his own decisions and actions; that he must soon go into a world where she could have no part except in the self-reliance she, and John, had been able to foster.

She heard them come back into the living room, and then heard Jeff's reproachful voice as he came into the room where she waited.

"Why didn't you tell me Dad couldn't have a suit if I did? You treat me like a baby!"

He stood uncertainly for a moment.

Then the words came—a little crowded: "Or as if you thought there wouldn't be another year for me to *need* a suit. That's like some of the guys who go out and in a few hours try to do all the things they need a lifetime to enjoy."

Then, as he saw her face, a mixture of grief and joy, he put an awkward, but comforting, arm around her.

"Sure it's tough, Mom. Maybe I'll never need the suit. But Dad says it's more important to prepare for a possible good life than to make extravagant use of the one we have, no matter how short or how long it may be. Sure, we think about it, but it doesn't make us happier to be treated as though we hadn't been around for long, and were children who thought you could have Christmas in May in case there shouldn't be a December!"

Give HEARTHSTONE for a Gift!

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Clip and Mail Coupon to:
Christian Board of Publication
2700 Pine Blvd., St. Louis 3, Mo.

The American Baptist
Publication Society
1703 Chestnut, Philadelphia 3, Pa.



When the Family Reads Aloud

(Continued from page 19.)

it is read, even from the pulpit! There is nothing to equal the grandeur of the language of the King James Version. However, you may prefer one of the later revised versions. They are written in a language the children—perhaps you too—will find easier to understand. Make it real. Are any stories written for children today more exciting than those of Joseph, Daniel, or young David? Why not set aside an hour a week—Sunday perhaps—for the family to read the Bible aloud?

Now for a few “don’ts.” Don’t strive for effect. No matter what, when, or where you read, be natural. If you are really interested, you will bring out the main points; and your reading will improve as you go on. Don’t make a chore of these sessions; and don’t make them too long. Start with an hour or so a week.

In all shared reading, discussion is as important as the material itself. A certain paragraph may suggest a new thought to you; you may agree or disagree with the author. Stop and talk about it. You’ll find yourselves led into many interesting bypaths. And while you may not cover as much ground in a given time, this will be more balanced by ever-increasing ability to think clearly and to express your thoughts. Most of all, you will be constantly learning more and more about yourselves, about your family, and about life.

Black Kitty and White Kitty

(Continued from page 20.)

“Just you wait until I go into the pantry and find a blue saucer. Then I will give you some of my good milk to drink.”

But Black Kitty couldn’t wait. Just as soon as Nora left the room, he jumped right up onto the table. Over went the milk bottle. Splash!

“Oh, you naughty Kitty!” she cried. “You have no manners at all. I would have given you a nice dish of milk, but now you shall have none at all.”

She got her long-handled broom and whisked Black Kitty right out the door.

Black Kitty ran so fast that he didn’t even see White Kitty on the gatepost.

“Oh, don’t run so fast!” called White Kitty.

Black Kitty stopped running and tried to walk with dignity, but all he did was puff and shake his whiskers in fright. “There is a very cross lady in that house,” he panted.

White Kitty looked sorry, but she simply had to find a home. So she said, “I think I will try my luck at the beautiful white house.”

White Kitty walked very daintily up on the path.

“I shouldn’t go in until I’m invited,” she thought. She meowed softly.

Nora started to say, “Scat!” and then she saw the little white kitten sitting just outside the door. “Why the fields must be full of kittens today. How polite you are, little kitten, to wait until you are invited in.”

“Meow!” said

White Kitty again.

“Would you like to come in and have some milk?” asked Nora.

“Meow, meow!” said White Kitty.

So Nora poured some milk into the little blue saucer, but just when she was about to set it on the floor for White Kitty, a telephone bell in the next room went “Tinkle, tinkle.” Nora left the saucer on the table and hurried out.

White Kitty sat there looking hungrily up at the milk. “Oh, dear, how I do want that milk.” But she had better manners than to jump up on Nora’s table. She had almost decided to go out again, when out came Nora.

“Why, I almost forgot you,” she cried. “What a very good-mannered kitten you are. Won’t you stay?”

White Kitty was so happy she began to purr. She lapped up every drop of milk. Then she used her little pink tongue and white paw to wash her face—way behind the ears, too.

Nora put a soft cushion on the floor beside the fire. White Kitty was just about to curl up and go to sleep when she remembered Black Kitty outside in the cold. She just couldn’t be happy without her good friend.

White Kitty went over to the door. “Meow!” she said.

“Are you going to leave me?” asked Nora sadly, as she opened the door. “I will miss you. Good-by, little Kitty.”

As quickly as anything, White Kitty raced down the walk. “Come with me, Black Kitty. Come quickly.” The two kittens ran back to the house.

“Meow!” said White Kitty. “Meow,

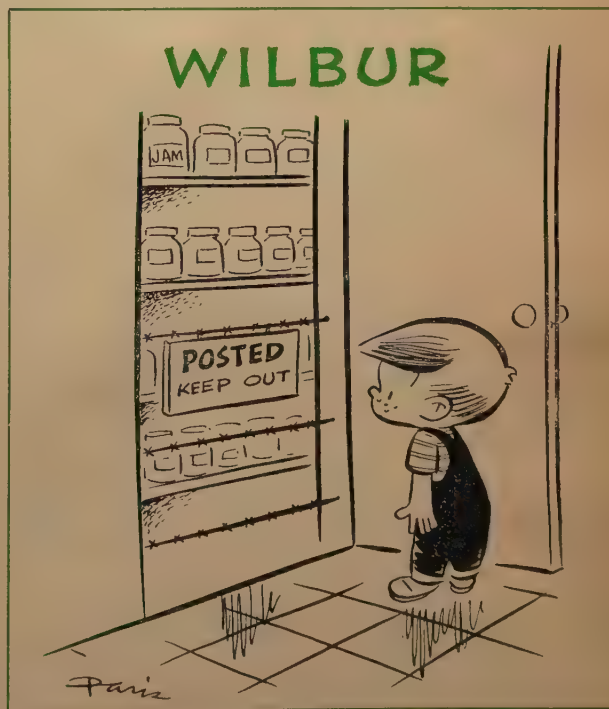
Nora heard and opened the door. She smiled when she saw White Kitty. She frowned when she saw Black Kitty.

“Purr-r-r,” pleaded White Kitty, and she rubbed against Nora’s ankles.

Nora must have understood that the two kittens were friends. She laughed. “Maybe we can teach Black Kitty that manners are very important. Good manners can bring pleasant things—such as milk and a warm fire.”

Nora opened the door wide and let White Kitty lead her friend over to the cushion. Black Kitty was very careful to curl up on exactly one-half of the cushion. Already he was beginning to learn how important manners are.

And that is how Black Kitty and White Kitty found a good home.



JUST ONCE I'd like somebody to ask me for money that was not to be used for some good cause."

My lawyer friend banged his fist on the highly polished desk. Then he reached for his wallet.

"You mean you want this contribution to be used in riotous living?" I asked him.

He grunted. "It would be a pleasure for a change. I'm so sick of noble causes. I'd like to live long enough to be able to give somebody some money to use for some honest-to-goodness fun."

Reaching for a piece of green folding money, he sighed: "If it's not one drive, it's six. I'm hard at it now trying to fix up a club room for the servicemen who come into town from that desert air base."

I offered to see what magazines and books I could rustle, but he said, "Probably they were all picked up last week for that Scout paper drive, or the new library at the mental hospital addition."

As I went to the elevator I reflected that my friend was right. Hadn't I just this morning had to refuse to help with another drive? Giving to worth-while causes, which was supposed to be fun, had turned out to be big business, a hunting season with no time limit imposed!

This particular contribution from my old-time lawyer friend and from others, in a special purse inside my bag, was in behalf of the Displaced Persons family al-

ready established in the community. Heavy dental expenses had arisen because of their former malnutrition. So an extra fund was being raised for the family which had been brought by the church and which included mother, father, son, daughter, grandmother.

They lived happily enough in the small house on which church men paid the rent, cooked on a castoff stove, used dishes from the ladies' aid, and slept on sheets and pillowcases furnished by the businesswomen. But my lawyer friend's comment had given me an idea. Did this Displaced Persons family, I wondered, ever have any money just to go spend, each exactly as they liked? What would each like to buy in our well-stocked stores: perfumed soap, candy bars, gay plastic dishes?

Direct to the bank I marched myself and thrust the lawyer's five-dollar bill under the cashier's wicket. "Please give me five brand new one-dollar bills," I

BY RUTH C. IKERMAN

The Displaced Dollars

Here's a story of thanksgiving—

about recent pilgrims to our shores,

seeking freedom and security

asked the young teller. He went back to the vault to find crisp new ones, never touched before by a consumer.

These I took to the pastor and said, "There is a condition attached to this money. It is not to be spent for the necessities, but given to the family to be used entirely for fun. And some day I hope to know just what each did with it, so I can report back to the man who gave it."

The pastor said the father of the family was even now in the church dining room, sweeping and doing janitor work, and it was there that we found him. How to give him the money was the next question. It was easily solved when the pastor inquired how his young son was getting along in school. "He's a good boy," said the father, "and he'll do better when he learns how it is you say things here."

Then I told him of my anonymous friend who wanted his son to learn how to have fun in America, too. In fact, he wanted the whole family to have some fun in using this money for pleasure. Here was a new dollar for each of them.

At first the father seemed about to refuse. But he held the crisp bill to the light and said, "The American dollar! Do you know how so beautiful?" There was a faraway look in his eye as he continued, "The first time I ever see one, a soldier you call 'G.I. Joe' gave me one to look at the day after they marched into our town. Such a day, they give to my boy his first candy bar. And they give

If We Keep Faith

And now that bitter winds of fear
And hate are blowing everywhere,
Let us rearm our hearts with song
And fortify our souls with prayer,
For we know well that prayer can still
The storms of wrath that haunt our days
If we try earnestly to keep
Our altar lamps of faith ablaze!

INEZ CLARK THORSON

him a nickel, too, which we always keep."

I felt his thrill of pride in the American dollar and its symbol of strength in the world today, backed by generous manhood. "But this money is not to keep, but to spend for fun," I reminded him again. "That is the order and the wish of the man who gave it."

He looked highly dubious as the pastor and I turned away, and fell to talking about the church's promise to help furnish the servicemen's reading room, in which my lawyer friend was also interested. "They need a bookcase, too," I told him, "but I don't know just how to dig up any more furniture since the last benefit rummage sale."

A few days later as I was stopping by the church office with an armload of magazines and books for the new room, the pastor greeted me happily. "It's all arranged about that bookcase," he said, "but it's a surprise until the night of the grand opening."

When the night arrived, my lawyer friend was there as chairman of his service club group sponsoring the event. He was inspecting a beautiful bookcase when I arrived. Near a discarded living-room lamp and an old easy chair, the case held inviting books. On its top was a tiny American flag in a wooden standard resting on a little crocheted doily.

This handwork seemed so typical of the average home living room that I was afraid it was calculated to make visiting soldiers homesick. When I went closer to examine it I found the pattern of the Horn of Plenty fashioned in exquisite, tiny stitches.

Even as I wondered who had contributed this lovely piece, the janitor approached and said beaming, "Grandma bought a ball of thread and made it. My boy and I, we just got this finished in time."

His hand touched the bookcase where stood my lawyer friend. "Let me introduce the builder," I told him, and listened to him thank the father in the same warm tones which had endeared him to juries and judges.

"Where did you get the wood?" the lawyer asked, fingering the carved top.

"I buy," said the father. "A good man sent me some money to use for fun. It has been so long since we can give anything; we can hardly wait to make this for the soldiers. They give to us all the time, and all we can give to them is trouble, trouble, trouble. Now we have some fun, too."

My friend and I suddenly had nothing to say, and in the silence the janitor continued hesitantly and in apology: "You see we do not read so good and we don't have any such nice books to give. So we think maybe we can make a place for the books."

Beside him stood the young son, his hair slicked back except for the unruly lock over his left eye. He made a new effort to push it back as he told me, shyly, "I bought the flag with money from my new pa-

per route." His eyes turned toward the far wall where sat the three generations of foreign-born women while their men talked to us. I decided to go and talk to them, getting acquainted with the grandmother and the mother by admiring the pink-cheeked baby.

Thus, from across the way, I glanced at my lawyer friend just as he straightened his shoulders and his tired face flashed a quick smile. Then, he held out his hand and shook hands with both the father and the son. It was the same gesture he used when welcoming visiting dignitaries to our community, and it was plain to see he was formally welcoming two brand-new citizens.

He called the meeting to order and the group rose to sing "America" and to listen to the pastor pronounce the invocation, asking the blessing of God on his humble room.



Prayer of a Homemaker

For the Safety of Loved Ones

Dear Heavenly Father:

Please hear a prayer for the safety of those we hold most dear. From early days, families have always prayed for loved ones absent on land and sea. Today we seek protection for human hearts who fly in airplanes above our homes, schools and churches. Protect all who travel by machines on the roads between our cities and states.

Where once we prayed to have our bodies shielded from roaming animals of pioneer days, guard our minds now from the lurking evils which would stalk our living rooms when we make unwise choice of television or radio programs.

As the world shrinks in size, help us grow in stature to use wisely each new medium of travel. Let us remember that our own loved ones can be safe only in proportion as all everywhere are made safe from evil, disease and war. Grant, then, the safeguarding through peace in our hearts, our homes, and in the world.

Amen.

RUTH C. IKERMAN



Modern Advertising Goes to Church

All the power of modern advertising is being used during November to reach every American with this message:¹

"Light Their Life With Faith . . . Bring Them to Worship This Week."

In terms of dollars and cents this power is represented by over \$5,000,000 in advertising which will be contributed by American business and industry to the cause of promoting and increasing the attendance and support of the American people at the churches. The agency through which this program is carried on is The Advertising Council, a voluntary organization of American business to advertise worthy social institutions which do not tend to "toot their own horns."

Religion in American Life is the continuing name of the program which emphasizes a different theme each year.

Evidence indicates that the churches in every community which cooperate in this program and work to take advantage of its promotion power profit greatly in increased interest and attendance.

Hearthstone heartily commends the RIAL division of The Advertising Council for its wonderful work in emphasizing the importance of religion in personal and community life.

Yes, Parents, Bring Them!

The key to the problem of lighting the lives of children with faith is in the phrase, "*Bring Them to Church This Week.*"

Too many parents think they have done their religious duty by their children if they have awakened them, dressed them, fed them, and sent them to church school and to church. That may (?) be good enough while the children are little but sooner or later such unfortunate children follow in the laggard ways of their parents and remain at home.

If you want your children truly to "grow in faith" (and we are sure that readers of *Hearthstone* do) you will obey the injunction to "*Bring Them to Church This Week (and every week).*"

The "Average" Church Family

What does the "average" church family look like? A recent survey made by *Presbyterian Life* magazine of its subscribers presents the following picture, which is probably about what the average church family looks like.²

Fifty per cent of the families have children living at home.

The average church family probably lives in its own home, located in a community of less than 10,000.

Its wage earner is probably in the semiprofessional or skilled worker group.

Its average income is probably about \$4000.

About 83 per cent of its members have finished high school, and about 21 per cent have had some college training.

It has some member who has a definite church responsibility.

Its members watch TV on an average of 48 minutes each day and listen to the radio more than twice as long.

More of its members would rather read than go to the movies.

Its chief hobbies are reading, gardening, photography, and printing. Favorite sports are swimming, golfing, tennis and baseball.

Seventy-five per cent of the families took vacations on which about 70 per cent spent less than \$200, 20 per cent spent between \$300 and \$1000, and the rest other amounts.

It spent about three per cent of its income on church and charitable projects.

How does your family compare to this portrait?

¹See page 29 for one sample of an ad.

²Figures by courtesy of the Presbyterian U.S.A. *Christian Family Life Bulletin*.

Do You Know

that



is truly

The Magazine for the Christian Home?

Here's
Why!

A recent independent survey of Christian family magazines resulted in the conclusion that *Hearthstone* is the only publication in this field that is published solely for the benefit of the home.

Other magazines in this field give greater emphasis to reaching the home for the benefit of the church, a very commendable purpose.

But *Hearthstone* aims primarily to serve the home.

What better gift can you give at Christmas?

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Family Gifts for Christmas

The **Hearthstone** *Magazine for the Christian Home*

The homemaking monthly magazine dedicated to "a strong, positive Christian family life." It is the meeting place of parent, religious teacher, educator, friend. It brings the whole world into your home through powerful feature articles on family problems, clean fiction, family worship ideas, housekeeping suggestions, child guidance, book and music reviews, and much, much more. Order your family subscription for the coming twelve months. It appeals to the real home—the house with a soul.

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Our churches' own book of daily devotions for individual and family use. This inspiring companion to Bible reading is a three months' collection of daily themes, Scripture texts and references, human-interest testimonies and brief prayers. Other thought-provoking messages, poems and illustrations complete its 96 pages. A yearly subscription will help strengthen your family altar. And, remember your Christmas contribution to THE SECRET PLACE SERVICEMEN'S FUND, 1703 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia 3, Pennsylvania, will send free copies of this pocket-sized quarterly to the armed forces.

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